AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer. This listing of the claims replaces any prior listings of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating melanoma comprising:

   (a) administering to a host a composition comprising a nucleic acid encoding a melanoma-associated tumor antigen as the sole active pharmaceutical agent such that the host develops an immune response against the tumor antigen; and,

   (b) subsequently administering at least 10 MU/m^2/day interferon alpha 2b (IFN-α2b) as the sole active pharmaceutical agent to the host;

   whereby the combination of steps a) and b) provides an enhanced T cell response in the host relative to that which occurs following step a) alone.

2-3. Cancelled.

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within a plasmid or a viral vector.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of poxvirus, adenovirus, retrovirus, herpesvirus, and adeno-associated virus.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the viral vector is a poxvirus selected from the group consisting of vaccinia, NYVAC, MVA, avipox, canarypox, ALVAC, ALVAC(2), fowlpox, and TROVAC.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the viral vector is a poxvirus selected from the group consisting of NYVAC, ALVAC, and ALVAC(2).

8-10. Cancelled.

11. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is selected from the group consisting of gp100, MART-1/Melan A, gp75/TRP-1, tyrosinase, NY-ESO-1, melanoma proteoglycan, a MAGE antigen, a BAGE antigen, a GAGE antigen, a fragment thereof, and a derivative thereof.

12. (Previously amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is selected from the group consisting of gp100, MAGE-1, MAGE-2, MAGE-3, MAGE-4, MAGE-6, MAGE-12, MAGE-51, GAGE-1, and GAGE-2.

13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the melanoma-associated tumor antigen is gp100.

14. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the composition comprises a poxviral vector encoding the melanoma-associated tumor antigen.

15. (Previously amended) The method of claim 14 wherein poxviral vector is an ALVAC vector.

16-17. Cancelled

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step ~~a~~ b) IFNα2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m^2/day at least two times per week for at least two weeks.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step a b) IFNα2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m^2/day at least three times per week for at least two weeks.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step ~~a~~ b) IFNα2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m^2/day at least four times per week for at least two weeks.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step ~~a~~ b) IFNα2b is administered at at least 10 MU/m^2/day at least five times per week for at least two weeks.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step ~~a~~ b) IFNα2b is administered at at least 20 MU/m^2/day at least five times per week for at least four weeks.

23. Cancelled

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~23~~ 1 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2).

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~23~~ 1 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence YLEPGPVTV (SEQ ID NO.: 3).

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~23~~ 1 wherein the nucleic acid encodes a modified gp100 tumor antigen comprising the amino acid sequence IMDQVPFSV (SEQ ID NO.: 2) and the amino acid sequence YLEPGPVTV (SEQ ID NO.: 3).
27. Previously cancelled
28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising step c) in which ~~wherein the amount of~~ IFNα2b is administered ~~is~~ at a dosage reduced by 33% of the amount of IFNα2b administered in step b).
29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the amount of IFNα2b is administered in step c) is at least 6 MU/m^2/day.
30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the ALVAC vector is ALVAC(2).
31. Cancelled
32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the nucleic acid is contained within an ALVAC or ALVAC(2) vector.
35. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) is not repeated after step (b).
36. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising, between steps a) and b), administering to the host a composition comprising the peptides YLEPGPVTV and IMDQVPFSV as the sole active pharmaceutical agents.
37. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) occurs between about 1.5 and 17 months after step (a).
38. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the host shows no evidence of disease progression following step (b).
39. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the host shows no radiological evidence of the metastases following step (b).